

Accessing State Regulations Online

Part 1- Introduction

This educational document was created by the California Building Standards Commission (CBSC) for the purpose of assisting building officials, design professionals, and builders needing to access state regulations relating to buildings. This 14-page document will provide an introduction to the process of using the Internet to access California state regulations along with necessary background information.

We also have other educational materials at this CBSC website. They include:

- Guide to Title 24
- Guide to the Nonresidential CAL Green Code
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Glossary of Terms
- Accessing State Laws Online
- Accessing State Legislation Online

Please visit our website for matters relating to the activities of the California Building Standards Commission including:

- Proposed building standards
- Online access to Title 24
- Meeting and hearing schedules
- Informational bulletins and announcements
- Newsletter, called the CAL Code Quarterly, and more.

Part 2- Background

State regulations are detailed rules needed to <u>interpret</u>, <u>clarify</u>, <u>implement</u>, <u>and carry out</u> the provisions of state law. State regulations are adopted by state agencies in the Executive Branch of state government. Whenever the state law requires or authorizes a state agency to establish regulations, the regulations of the state agency are adopted into the California Code of Regulations (formerly known as the California Administrative Code). The California Code of Regulations is subdivided into 28 separate titles. Many times, a title is designated for a single subject or state agency.

Here is a listing of the 28 titles of the California Code of Regulations along with their names.

Title 1. General Provisions

Title 2. Administration

Title 3. Food and Agriculture

Title 4. Business Regulations

Title 5. Education

Title 6. Vacant

Title 7. Harbors and Navigation

Title 8. Industrial Relations

Title 9. Rehabilitative and Developmental Services

Title 10. Investment

Title 11. Law

Title 12. Military and Veterans Affairs

Title 13. Motor Vehicles

Title 14. Natural Resources

Title 15. Crime Prevention

Title 16. Professional and Vocational Regulations

Title 17. Public Health

Title 18. Public Revenues

Title 19. Public Safety

Title 20. Public Utilities and Energy

Title 21. Public Works

Title 22. Social Security

Title 23. Waters

Title 24. California Building Standards Code

Title 25. Housing and Community Development

Title 26. Toxics

Title 27. Environmental Protection

Title 28. Managed Health Care

A common misunderstanding is that the provisions of California Code of Regulations pertains only to state government and not to local government. This is incorrect. State regulations are adoptions by state agencies charged with the responsibility to implement a program or requirement established by state law. The application of the state regulations

is the same as the implemented state law. Many times enforcement is delegated to local government.

Whenever a state regulation establishes a building standard, such building standard is adopted into Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations. Title 24 is known as the California Building Standards Code. It contains all building standards establishing requirements for the design and construction of buildings in California. The building standards are developed by state agencies having authority in state law to establish the building standards for specific types of buildings. The California Building Standards Commission is the oversight state agency coordinating the work of state agencies proposing building standards for publication in Title 24.

In addition to Title 24, there are other regulations in the California Code of Regulations relating to buildings that are not building standards as defined in Health and Safety Code Section 18909. Accordingly, those regulations are located in titles other than Title 24. The other titles and subjects are:

- Title 8, Division 1, Chapter 4, Subchapter 6, commencing with Section 3000, regarding elevators, escalators, dumbwaiters, stairway chairlifts and other forms of conveyances adopted by the Department of Industrial Relations.
- Title 19, Division 1, with Chapters 1 though 16 with adoptions by the Office of the State Fire Marshal regarding general fire and panic safety, fire alarms, extinguishers, tents, awnings and more.
- Title 21, Division 1, Chapter 1, with 6 subchapters of adoptions by the Division of the State
 Architect on the subjects of access to public buildings, excess flow gas shut off valves, the
 Certified Access Specialist program, construction of public schools and more.
- Title 25, Division 1, Chapters 1 through 7, adopted by the Department of Housing and Community Development on the subjects of the State Housing Law, Employee Housing Act, Mobilehome Parts Act, Manufactured Housing Act of 1980 and more.

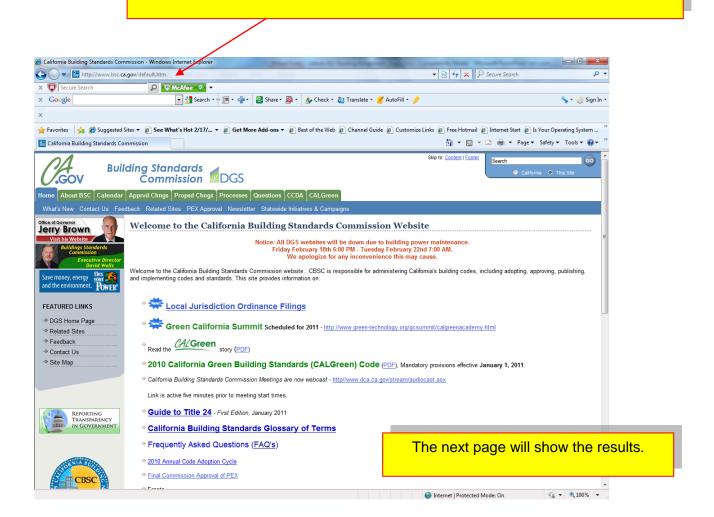
State regulations may be accessed at public libraries, government offices, private law offices, and through the California state website. Let's learn how to access the California Code of Regulations through the California state website.

The Office of Administrative Law is responsible for overseeing the adoption of much of the California Code of Regulations, and for maintaining the public Internet access to the code.

Exception: The California Building Standards Code in Title 24 may be accessed through the California Building Standards Commission website http://www.bsc.ca.gov/. All 12 parts of Title 24 are available online.

Let's learn how to access state regulations through the Internet. It is easier than you may think.

From any Internet page, just type in the website address of the Office of Administrative Law, http://www.oal.ca.gov/ into this space and press your enter key. Here we used the website of the California Building Standards Commission as our starting point.



This is the website of the Office of Administrative Law accessed by the address http://www.oal.ca.gov/.

Home Page Office of Administrative Law - Windows Internet Explorer

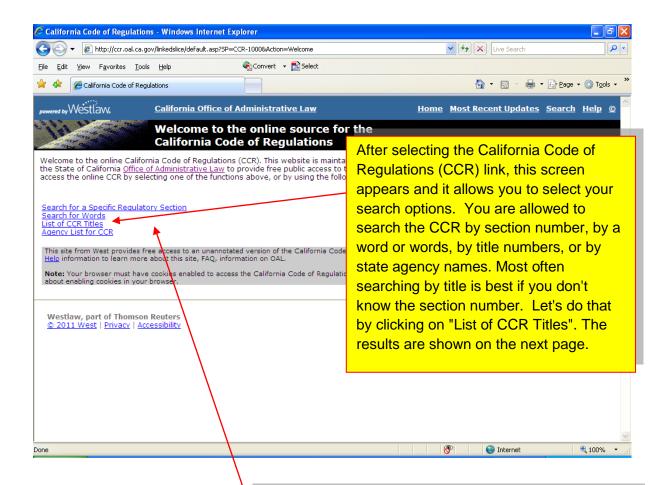
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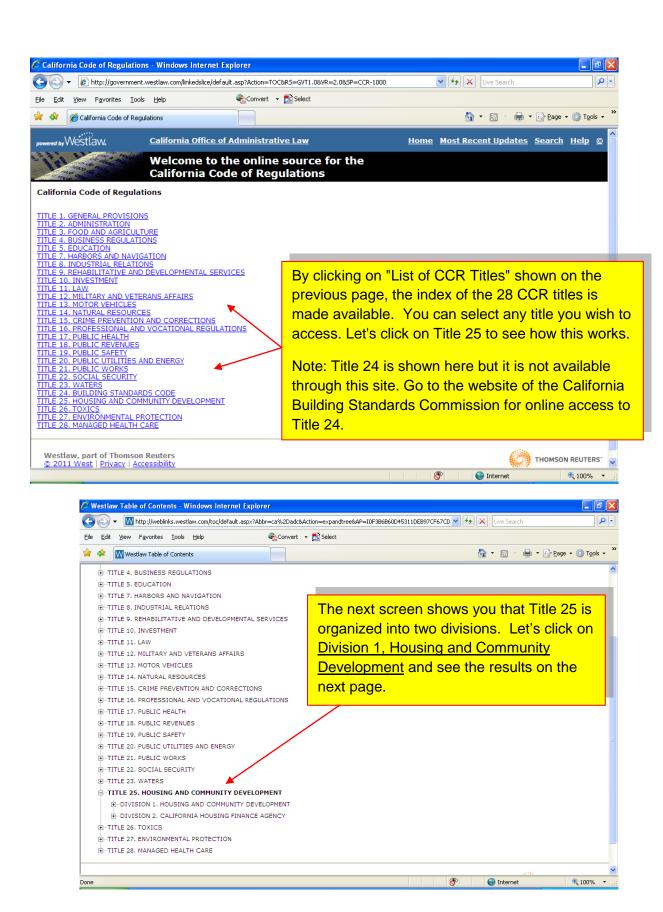
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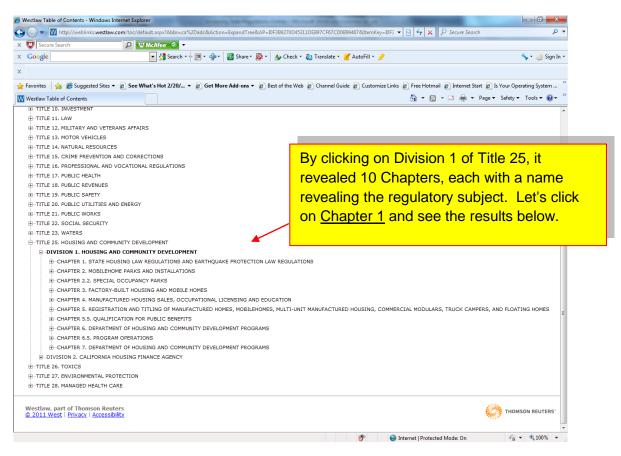


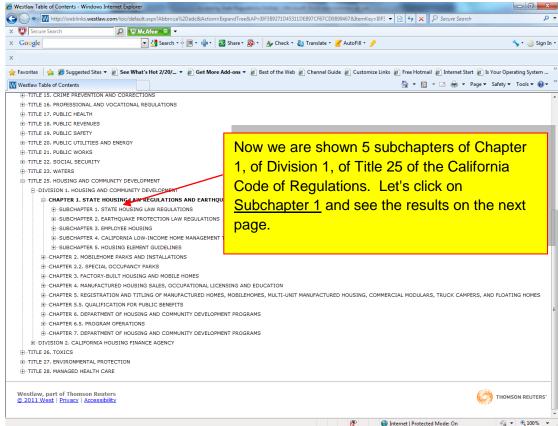
There is considerable information available on the front page of the OAL website (shown above) about state regulations and the regulation adoption process, called rulemaking. There are also links to legislation, state laws, the Notice Register (announcements of proposed regulations), Publications, and more. Take the time to study this page and try the various links while at your computer.

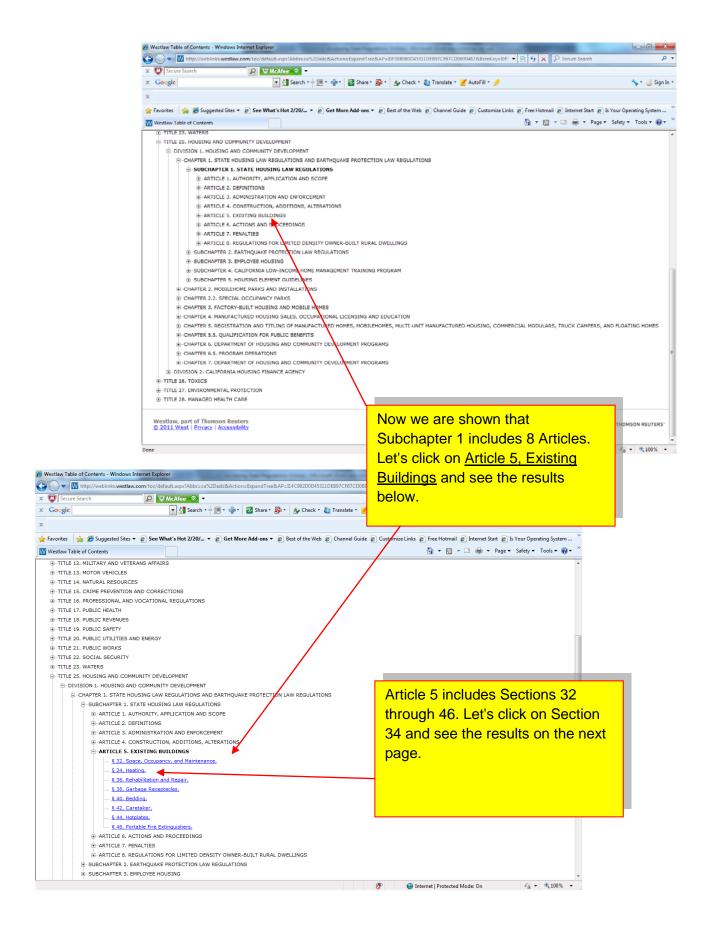


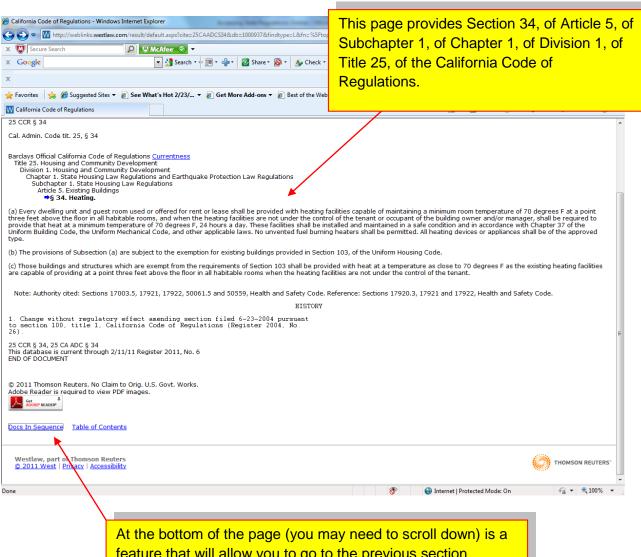
However, if you already know the title and section number you wish to access, click on "Search for a Specific Regulatory Section." That will be faster than going through the Title index. We will look at this step later.



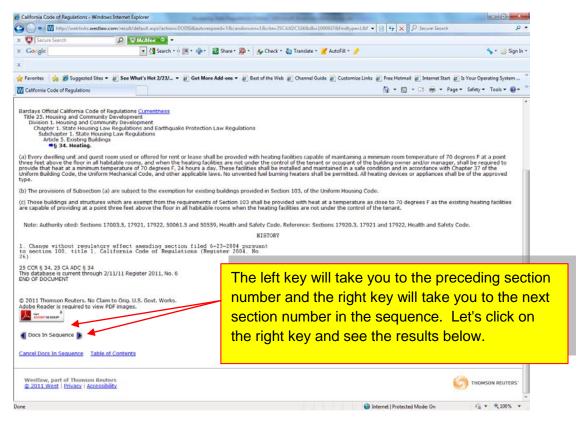


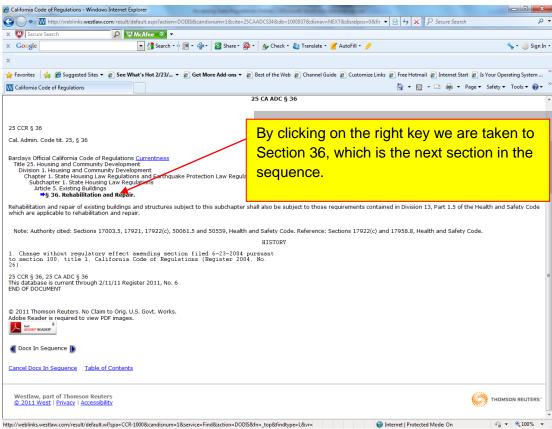


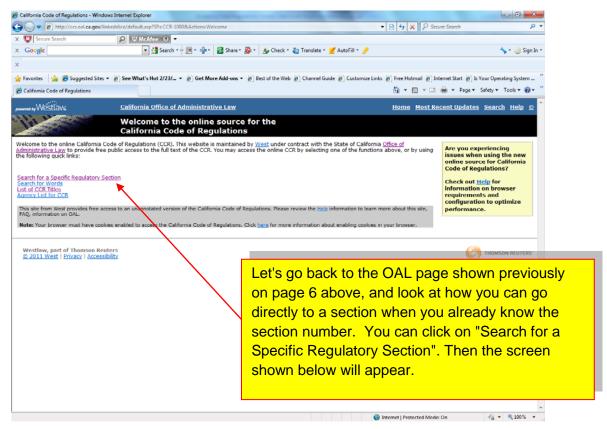


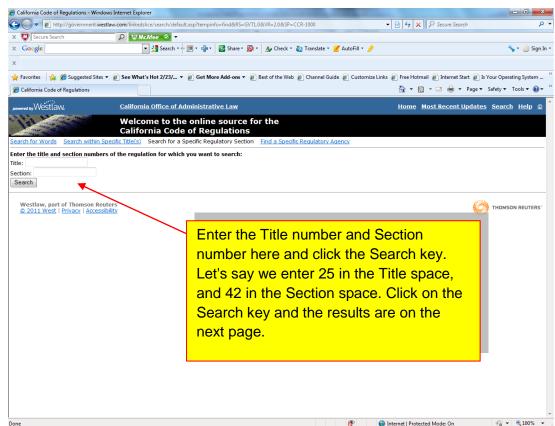


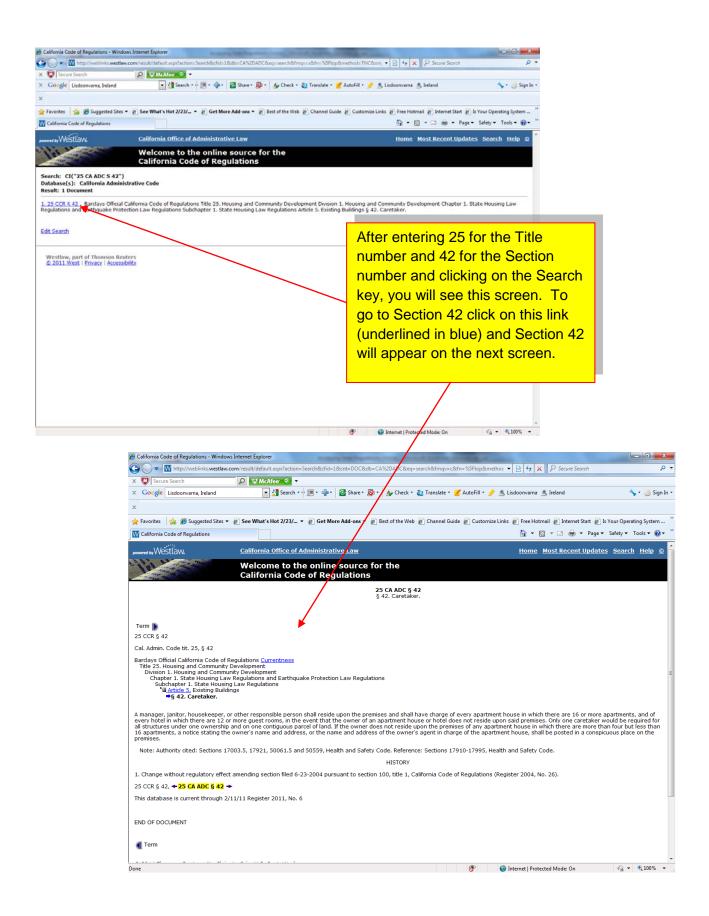
At the bottom of the page (you may need to scroll down) is a feature that will allow you to go to the previous section number or the next section number in the regulations by clicking on "Docs In Sequence". If we click on the "Docs In Sequence", a forward and back key will appear in the next screen. To go to the next section click on the right key as shown on our next page.











Part 4- Conclusion

Here are some good rules to remember when working with state regulations.

- 1. Always be aware of the identity of the title, part, division, chapter etc., to be certain you are in the proper location for the desired subject.
- 2. Look for and read any section named "application and scope", "application", "scope", "intent", "purpose", or similar words. Such a section is generally located near the beginning of a code segment (chapter, division, part, etc.,) to explain the application of the regulations of the segment. For example, a segment may be said to apply to only high-rise buildings. You don't want to apply those provisions to buildings that are not high-rise buildings by definition.
- 3. Look for definitions of terms. This is generally provided near the beginning of a code segment (chapter, division, part etc.). This is very important. Some words and terms are defined specifically for the purpose of that particular code segment, and the same words and terms may be defined differently in order segments of the code.
- 4. Read the Authority and Reference provisions provided at the end of state regulation sections. The authority cited is the state law section or sections requiring or authorizing the state agency to adopt the regulations. The Reference cited is the state law that is being implemented by the regulations. Many times it is beneficial to read the state laws referenced in the Authority and Reference provisions to understand the complete subject and purpose.

We recommend practicing the steps provided in this document in order to become completely familiar with the process. We also recommend creating folders in your Internet favorites where you can save the various state agency websites we have discussed in this document. Good luck.

If additional clarification is needed contact us at, California Building Standards
Commission, 2525 Natomas Park Drive, Suite 130, Sacramento, CA 95833; Phone: (916)
263-0916; Fax: (916) 263-0959; Email: cbsc@dgs.ca.gov. We welcome your feedback.
Use our feedback feature on our CBSC website.

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